

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 20 are the only independent claims.

Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-31 stand subject to a Restriction Requirement according to which the Examiner has divided the claims into two groups, namely, Group I including claims 1-19 directed to a mounting plate and Group II containing claims 20-31 drawn to a finishing machine. The Examiner particularly points out that the Group I apparatus is not required to be driven by random orbiting means.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby provisionally elect the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1-19, for continued prosecution in the application. The election is made with traverse on the grounds that search and examination of the claims of both Groups I and II would not constitute an undue burden on the Examiner. This is the case inasmuch as claim 6 of Group I recites that the mounting plate of claim 1 is to be driven by random orbiting means. Thus, a search and examination of the subject matter of claim 6 will entail a search and examination of the subject matter of claim 20.

In view of the above grounds, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner review and reconsider the Restriction Requirement.

Applicants note that their application No. 220,581, filed September 3, 2002, has issued a U.S. Patent No. 6,811,475 with claims directed to both a sanding pad and a sanding machine.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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